



switched to color camera mode. The infrared illumination 902 is switched off. If available, an appropriate level of artificial visible light 904 can be switched on. The optimal focal length / depth of field 971 is achieved by iris lens control which also provides the required level of light to be gathered by the camera. The iris lens control 960 governs mono camera zoom 932 and mono depth of field 933 and color zoom 970 and color depth of field 971 selections depending on interactive choice by the user, or on preset reactions 944 for the system to various types of event within the surveilled field. The motion sensing 950 provides input to the lens control and to the infrared illumination 902 via the camera and illumination control module 995 that decides whether to activate the mono camera 100 or the color camera 200 and selects the video signal output 974 for transmission by wireless media 975. A video and data compression / decompression module 976 can be embedded in the media processes.

The energy management module 990 tracks battery power 991, ambient energy availability 992, and motion sensing. In response to the information provided, the energy management module 990 will switch on the charging circuit 993 when appropriate, and will also give system energy availability information 994 to the camera and illumination control module 995 and the transceiver 996, to reduce the number of video frames per second processed or transmitted in order to conserve power consumption when necessary.

Intermittent infrared illumination and intermittent picture transmission can thus be used instead of constant illumination and continual video transmission to vastly cut the power consumption during periods of low activity in the field of vision of the system, or during periods of low battery